

# Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted

## October 10, 2014

The Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted met on October 10, 2014 at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, VA.

Members present: Donna Poland, Lesley Hunley, Patty Griffin, Carol Horn, Robert Hundley, Beth Andersen, Stephen Keith, Janice Robertson, Reginald Johns, Elizabeth Schupp, Melanie Daniel, Kimberly Waite, Cheryl McCullough, Melissa Powers, Kevin Kendall, Jennifer Sublette-Williamson, Teresa Ellison, Sandra Cole

Members absent: Catherine Ingrassia, Sarah Gross, Margee Greenfield,

Visitors: Marianne Macon and Anne Hayes (Maggie L. Walker Governor's School PTSA Advocacy)

Carol Horn opened the meeting at 10:10 am. New members were welcomed and introductions were made.

Approval of the Agenda: Kevin Kendall moved approval of the agenda, Robert Hundley seconded. All were in favor.

Election of Officers: Donna Poland presented the names of the nominees: Carol Horn, Chair; Lesley Hunley, Vice-Chair; and Catherine Ingrassia, Secretary. Sandra Cole moved to elect the slate as presented. Robert Hundley seconded. All were in favor.

### Department of Education Report-Dr. Donna Poland

- The General Assembly tasked the Secretary of Education to conduct a study of Academic Year Governor's School funding. The study is completed and available online at <http://leg2.state.va.us/DLS/H&SDocs.NSF/4d54200d7e28716385256ec1004f3130/bea318a0465913b585257cfb006026af?OpenDocument>. There were a number of recommendations made to the Senate Finance Committee as a result, but Dr. Poland is unsure what will happen moving forward.
- HB 887 required the Department of Education to come up with a model and procedures for a Governor's Career and Technical Education School. The major challenge currently is figuring out how to identify in this area. There will be additional meetings related to this in the future involving legislators and experts in the field of career and technical education as well as gifted education.
- Technical reviews of Local Gifted Plans are taking place on October 15<sup>th</sup> in Salem and October 22<sup>nd</sup> in Bedford. This is the second year of technical reviews.

- The Virginia Consortium of Gifted Education Administrators annual meeting was held in Charlottesville on September 19<sup>th</sup>. It was in a different program format and was well attended. Dr. Poland also held a new coordinator's training in Charlottesville on September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Academic Year Governor's School Directors met in Massanutten earlier this fall. There was discussion regarding the AYGS funding study report and related survey. There was also discussion about the Maker's Fair by a presenter from Virginia Tech, which may be expanded to include Governor's Schools.
- Dr. Poland will be attending the national meeting for state gifted education directors in November and will also travel to Bahrain and Qatar in November to learn about their gifted programs.
- Virginia Association for the Gifted Updates:
  - o There is no Virginia Association for the Gifted conference/seminar this year because National Association for Gifted Children will be held in Baltimore November 13-16.
  - o Patty Griffin shared that the Virginia Association for the Gifted is having a Book Fair in November through Barnes & Noble as a fundraiser. Books can be purchased in stores across Virginia or online.
  - o Patty Griffin shared that Virginia Association for the Gifted will be holding mini-seminars in Regions III and I this year.

Charge from the Board of Education-Middle School Opportunities: Dr. Poland has compiled all of the components that she has received. A draft was sent out to the group via email and paper copies were provided. The introduction and section on social-emotional needs were reviewed and discussed by the group. Revisions and edits were made.

Working Lunch in Subcommittees: The group broke into subcommittees to work on the middle school document. New members joined existing subcommittees: Beyond the Classroom – Kimberly Waite, Teresa Ellison; Accelerated Content – Melissa Powers, Melanie Daniel, Jennifer Sublette-Williamson; Advanced Learning Opportunities in the Classroom – Cheryl McCullough, Kevin Kendall.

All completed sections should be sent to a central group member by November 3<sup>rd</sup>. It should then be assembled, sent back out to the group for review, and finalized. Finalized sections should be sent to Dr. Poland by November 10<sup>th</sup> and she will distribute a final draft of the total document to the group by November 17<sup>th</sup>. At the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, any additional changes will be made and the document will be sent through the VDOE review process. In February, Dr. Poland hopes to have a final document that the group can decide to send forward to the Board of Education.

Subcommittee Reports: No major issues were encountered in any sections.

Member Reports:

Beth Andersen: The new gifted coordinator in Prince George County started in August. They are working on finding ways to measure student growth.

Janice Robertson: Amelia County has a new superintendent who is enthusiastic about the gifted program. They hope to also have a part-time gifted coordinator soon. They have refined the gifted identification process and are working on gaining more diverse representation.

Reginald Johns: The Hampton City advanced visual arts program has moved to a model where students are instructed weekly in their home school by the art teacher, instead of at a center school.

Elizabeth Schupp: Amherst County has submitted their Local Plan for review. Whole group testing has been implemented in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade and referrals have increased in number and diversity as a result. An efficiency study that was conducted showed that the school system was highly efficient and needed increased funds from the county. The gifted program had an equal amount of commendations and recommendations and there was no recommendation for additional gifted resource teachers because the services are "exemplary." Amherst is also using Thinking Maps as a division, beginning this year.

Melanie Daniel: Stafford County's new superintendent came to the division last spring. They are now focusing on quantifiable evidence and collecting data on various programs. They have also been working on their writing program at the middle and high schools.

Kimberly Waite: Middlesex County has all leadership returning. They have built a new athletic center.

Cheryl McCullough: Arlington County is beginning a program evaluation for gifted education. They have also adopted a tiered system of support and are implementing Interactive Achievement assessments, both of which they are working to move the goals of gifted education forward. They are focusing on the middle school service model and hope to implement cluster grouping for advanced courses.

Melissa Powers: Brunswick County has a new superintendent. There will not be any changes to the gifted program but they are aiming to improve services at the middle school. The high school coordinator is going to use the VACEG publication, Educational Opportunities for Gifted Students at the High School Level to guide their work with administrators on providing opportunities for gifted students at the high school level.

Sandra Cole: The Region VII Consortium conducted their annual regional professional development for gifted education. They are also working to pool resources for field trips.

Kevin Kendall: Lexington City is in a time of transition with their leadership. Gifted education has focused on cluster grouping.

Jennifer Sublette-Williamson: A small work group in Albemarle County has been revising and editing the Local Plan. They are also working on growing internship opportunities in their division.

Teresa Ellison: Alleghany County is looking for a new superintendent.

Lesley Hunley: Mathews County is currently in the process of a superintendent search. Region III gifted coordinators are meeting quarterly and will hold a mock technical review at their next meeting in November.

Patty Griffin: Things in Henrico County are off to a good start.

Sandra Cole moved the meeting be adjourned. Jennifer Sublette-Williamson seconded. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Next meeting: December 5, 2014 at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School